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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,102	11/25/2003	Peter M. Bonutti	780-A03-012C	6375
33771	7590	06/27/2008		
PAUL D. BIANCO			EXAMINER	
Fleit Gibbons Gutman Bongini & Bianco PL			PHILOGENE, PEDRO	
21355 EAST DIXIE HIGHWAY				
SUITE 115			ART UNIT	
MIAMI, FL 33180			PAPER NUMBER	
			3733	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722,102

Applicant(s)

BONUTTI, PETER M.

Examiner

Pedro Philogene

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-20 and 22-39 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-20,22-39 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/17/08 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2, 4-20, 22-39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burkinshaw et al. (6,007,537) in view of Mains et al. (4,421,112).

With respect to claim 13, Burkinshaw et al disclose a total knee replacement comprising a disposable cutting guide (12,20) fabricated from a metal material and designed for a single use, (if one so desired) having a body for forming a cut on a bone in preparation to receive a total knee joint replacement component, having a body dimensioned for attachment to a surface of an end portion of the bone (40) free of an extramedullary or intramedullary alignment rod; as best seen in FIGS. 1-10, and at least one guide surface (14,16,22,24) dimensioned for engagement with a cutting tool (39) to thereby direct the cutting tool wherein the design of cutting guide, being both metal and

disposable, is readily modified in successive iterations for new or customized instrumentation.

It is noted that Burkinshaw et al did not teach of cutting guide that is fabricated of polymeric material such that the design of the cutting guide, being both polymeric and disposable, is readily modified in successive iterations for new or customized instrumentations; as claimed by applicant. However, in similar art, Mains et al provide the evidence of a cutting guide fabricated of either metal or polymeric material so that the desired corrective result may be more accurately obtained.

Therefore, given the teaching of Mains et al, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Burkinshaw et al, as taught by Mains et al so that the desired corrective result may be more accurately obtained.

With respect to claims 14-18,39 Burkinshaw et al discloses all the limitations, as best seen in FIGS.1-10, and as set forth in column 2, lines 55-67, column 3, lines 7-68, column 4, lines 1-68, column 5, lines 1-68, column 6, lines 1-35, and as best seen in FIGS.1-5, column, lines 8-11, column 5, lines 35-44 of Mains et al.

With respect to claims 1, 2, 4-12, 19, 20, 22-38, the method steps, as set forth, would have been inherently carried out in the operation of the device, as set forth above. As to the step of expanding the incision from an unexpanded configuration to an expanded configuration by applying force against opposite edge portions of the incision, this step is obvious.

Response to Amendment

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Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 4/17/08, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 11,2,4-20, 22-39 under 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Burkinshaw et al/Mains et al.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5,916,221	6-1999	Hodorek et al.
5,769,854	6-1998	Bastian et al.
5,897,559	4-1999	Masini

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272 - 4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Pedro Philogene/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3733
June 24, 2008